

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 16 “The Spirit of Life in Christ ”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. They were in strife about beliefs and practices associated with their faith and trying to impose their will on each other.

1. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it.
2. This is what God wants to do with church in America. If He sent revival that didn't lead to change in belief and practice it would just accelerate our idolatry.

B. **Romans 5-6** and talk about identity in Christ. As believers we are now in Christ (the second Adam) and no longer in the first Adam. Because of this we have a new nature as righteous and not as a sinner so we are supposed to live righteously.

C. Last week we began studying **Romans 7** and **Romans 8**. In **Romans 7** Paul says, “the good that he wants to do he doesn't do and the evil he doesn't want to do he keeps on doing. He's frustrated and then cries out, “Who will deliver me from this condition?” **Romans 7** is the question, while **Romans 8** is the answer!

D. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ because of the power of the spirit of life in Christ! The word spirit is used once in **Romans 7** and is used 20 times in **Romans 8**.

II. The Spirit of Life in Christ

A. **Romans 8:1-13**

1. **Verse 1** - Therefore connects back to the previous passages. The key is those who are “In Christ.” This is our position. We are not condemned, unfit for use. The phrase “walking according in the spirit and not the flesh” was added later (not in earliest manuscripts - makes sense as it doesn't fit the flow of the thought.)
2. **Verse 2** This comparison is like the law of gravity and law of aerodynamics. The law of aerodynamics sets me free from the law of gravity just like the law of the the spirit of life in Christ sets me free from the law of sin and death.
3. **Verse 3-4** The law was weak through the flesh. Why? Flesh couldn't keep it. This is why we need the power of the Holy Spirit so the righteous requirement of law is kept.
4. **Illustration**

a. **Song of Solomon 5:12** Eyes speak of His passion for us (Doves mate for life), Rivers speak of cleansing (Jesus sees and judges with a clean heart not one of condemnation, washed with milk (nurture) - Jesus nurtures when He corrects, and fitly set means they are in the right position and full of light so they can introduce divine perspective into our situation to set us free from the law of sin and death.

b. **John 8:2-12**

i. The Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery. Were they right to want to stone her? Yes.

ii. In the midst of this the Pharisees try to trap Jesus. If He says let her go, they'll say He's violating the law of Moses. He's a heretic.

b. If He says stone her, the Roman soldiers on the scene will arrest Him for acting as a vigilante. Also, He would probably lose His crowd because He's presented God as a God of love and grace.,

iii. When Jesus stoops down to write, the Pharisees (law) continue asking Him. The law asks questions, but it doesn't provide answers.

iv. Jesus gets up and offers divine perspective. "He who is without sin, throw the first stone - He calls their bluff and they all leave.

Key to understand: In the Old Testament, it took the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses for the death penalty to be enforced. Jesus got rid of the accusers. He's the only one left so she gets to live. How does He get her out of the situation? Divine perspective.

v. Jesus then says, "Go and Sin No More." The power of prophetic utterance. **Song of Solomon 5:13** Lips dripping with myrrh. The word drip is **nâṭaph**. This word means to prophesy. **This imparted the Holy Spirit into her life.**

vi. Jesus declares "I am the light of the world." He makes this statement during the feast of tabernacles when they had 4 candelabras lit that would light the city at night (symbolic of the pillar of fire that led the children of Israel in the Exodus.. What Jesus is saying is His light is so bright that it lights the world not just a city. This is the difference between law and grace. **This is the spirit of life in Christ!**

vii. Marcus story - "your life isn't a testimony of your failure, it's testimony of the devil's because He could't finish you off."

5. **Verses 5-8** These verses talk about the difference between being carnally minded and spiritually minded. Often people assume carnal minded is talking about sin, lust, etc. but in context it is talking about trying to earn favor or justify ourselves or live out the Christian life by natural, carnal means.

a. **Ephesians 2:14-15** the law is enmity (the enemy of God). This means when I am law minded my mind is at war with God.

- b. The Pharisees illustrate this in *John 8*.
 - c. Spiritually minded means to be dependent on Jesus.
5. *Verses 9-11* The spirit of God that is in us gives life to our mortal bodies when we depend on Jesus. How do we do this?
- a. Divine wisdom (spiritually minded)
 - b. Usually divine declaration (speak the word like Jesus in *John 8*. Sometimes God will use other means like communion, prayer of agreement, etc.

III. Conclusion - There are two ways to live the Christian life. We can struggle in the strength of the flesh in our power to walk out God's plan for our life or we can depend on the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

A. Call Up Prayer

B. Pray Closing Prayer